

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FBOE-00 A-01 SY-05 INS-01 SCA-01 ABF-01

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P 091705Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6091

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1281

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AFSP, CGEN

SUBJ: EXCHANGE OF B&F AND CONSULAR OFFICE SPACE

1. THE SPACE AVAILABLE IN THE CHANCERY FOR CONSULAR OPERATIONS IS COMPLETELY INADEQUATE DURING THE PEAK WORKLOAD PERIOD, I.E., MAY THROUGH NOVEMBER, CAUSING CONGESTION BY CROWDS WAITING IN THE CHANCERY LOBBY AND CREATING POSSIBILITIES OF ADVERSE SECURITY ACTIVITY. THE INADEQUATE SPACE SITUATION AND SECURITY POTENTIAL HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED BY THE FOREIGN SERVICE INSPECTORS CURRENTLY IN CANADA, WITH THE RESULT THAT THEY RECOMMEND CORRECTIVE ACTION BE TAKEN INCLUDING MOVING THE CONSULAR SECTION TO LEASED SPACE ELSEWHERE IN THE CITY.

2. OF THE TWO ALTERNATIVES AVAILABLE THE MOST PRACTICAL, LEAST EXPENSIVE AND LEAST DISRUPTIVE IS TO EXCHANGE THE CONSULAR OFFICE SPACE WITH THE SPACE NOW OCCUPIED BY THE BUDGET AND FISCAL UNIT. AS THE DEPARTMENT MAY BE AWARE, THE BUDGET AND FISCAL UNIT OCCUPIES ROOMS 500 AND 501 IN A MODERN BANK BUILDING ONE BLOCK FROM THE CHANCERY.

3. TO MEET MINIMUM SPACE REQUIREMENTS OF THE CONSULAR SECTION AND ACCOMMODATE THE CHANCERY-BASED

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INS UNIT OF TWO US PERSONNEL IT WILL BE NECESSARY

TO RENT AN ADDITIONAL 365 SQUARE FEET IN THE SAME BANK BUILDING (ROOM 506) WHICH WILL BECOME AVAILABLE MAY 1, 1975, AT C\$7.50 PER SQUARE FOOT. IT IS ESTIMATED THAT INS WILL OCCUPY, AND FUND, APPROXIMATELY 180 SQUARE FEET OF THE ADDITIONAL SPACE.

4. THE PHYSICAL MOVE COSTS WILL BE KEPT TO THE ABSOLUTE MINIMUM THROUGH USE OF EMBASSY PERSONNEL AND, WHERE NECESSARY, HIRE OF STREET LABORERS, RATHER THAN A MOVING FIRM. ADDITIONAL EXPENSE FOR FURNITURE CAN BE AVOIDED, AT LEAST FOR BALANCE OF FY-75.

5. EMBASSY SUGGESTS THAT RENTAL AND RELATED COSTS CONTINUE UNDER THE SHARED ALLOTMENT WITH INS CHARGED THEIR PROPORTIONATE SHARE SO AS TO AVOID NEED FOR SEPARATE LEASE AGREEMENTS FOR STATE PROGRAM AND INS.

6. REQUEST EARLY APPROVAL OF MOVE SO COMMITMENT CAN BE MADE TO BANK MANAGEMENT FOR OUR RENTAL OF ROOM 506 EFFECTIVE MAY 1. PORTER

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